

ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

April 22, 2020

This meeting was advertised in The Hunterdon Democrat notice posted in the Alexandria Township Municipal Offices and the Alexandria Township Website (www.alexandrianj.gov) as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et, seq., and in consideration of Executive Order No. 103, issued by Governor Murphy on March 9 ,2020, declaring a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency in the State of New Jersey, the State of New Jersey does hereby notify the public that to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens while ensuring the continued functioning of government, the meeting of the Mayor and the Township Committee scheduled April 22, 2020 will be held electronically only. Members of the public who wish to participate in the meeting may do so by calling 1-978-990-5000 and followed by meeting number Access Code: 333891 at 6:00 PM. Individuals calling into this number will be able to fully participate in the meeting, including providing public comment. A non-public dial in number will be used if executive session is required.

Meeting Called to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Plumer, Committeeman Pfefferle, Committeeman Kiernan, Twp. Atty. Dragan

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT:

OEM Harding, DPW Foreman Heiser

FLAG SALUTE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Covid 19 Update

Mayor Plumer noted that to date there are 8 confirmed cases in the Township. Weekly conference calls have quieted down. There are two testing centers in New Jersey now that do not require a doctor note. One of them being the PNC Art Center in Holmdel. OEM Harding noted that a testing center has opened at Raritan Valley Community College for Somerset and Hunterdon County residents. A doctor's note is required to be tested at this facility along with displaying symptoms. There are two facilities; one in West Windsor and one Toms River that are conducting antibody testing. OEM Harding has noted that there have been no problems at the park and everyone at the park has been practicing social distancing. Township Clerk/Administrator Bobrowski advised Mayor Plumer that the proclamation for frontline workers was mailed out to area hospitals, grocery stores, post offices, police departments, and fire/EMS squads. Township Clerk/Administrator Bobrowski noted that she is looking into how the new norm will be for when the municipal offices can re-open. There will need to be a determination made as to the public being

permitted into the offices, will the public be permitted by appointment only, will the public and employees need to wear face coverings, etc. Township Clerk/Administrator Bobrowski is also looking into the cost of having a professional cleaning company come in to sterilize the offices prior to employees returning to work. There are many companies that specialize in cleaning offices during this pandemic for Covid-19.

- Budget

There are no budget updates at this time. Comm. Kiernan noted that the Court budget will remain the same as last year. Comm. Kiernan did receive a proposal from Frenchtown Mayor Brad Myhre pertaining to moving the Court operations to Raritan Township. Dissolving the Joint Court and going to the Raritan Township Court will be a tremendous savings to the Township. The cost to join the Raritan Township Court will be \$30,000.00 a year. This cost will include salaries, court room expenses, etc. The Township will keep all proceeds from tickets. The agreement would be for 5 years and operational costs/court salaries would be increased by 2 % each year. The Court Reps of Alexandria Twp., Holland Twp., and Frenchtown Boro will be meeting with the Raritan Township Court to discuss details and review a drafted agreement once things settle down from Covid-19. The Townships needs to give a 6 month notice to leave the Joint Court which would be July 1st of this year to begin a January start date. The Township's are still liable for the current lease agreement of the Joint Court and would need to continue to pay the Township's share of the lease. The Township's yearly share of the rent is \$4,000.00. There is also a possibility to sublease the new court offices to Frenchtown Boro as they are looking to expand municipal offices.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ordinance 2020-002 To exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

Com. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to approve Ordinance 2020-002 on 1st Reading. ***Public Comment will be on May 13th at 7:35 PM.***

Roll Call: Aye: Plumer, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE 2020-002 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF ALEXANDRIA, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by Ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by Ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Alexandria in the County of Hunterdon finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to three and one-half percent (3.5%) over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$21804.40 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Alexandria, in the County of Hunterdon, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Alexandria shall, in accordance with this Ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$76,315.40 and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the Township of Alexandria be approved and adopted in accordance with this Ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this Ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this Ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

- Credit Cards Expenses

Comm. Pfefferle noted that CFO Steinberg has agreed to allow the use of a credit card for payment on behalf of the Township regarding Covid-19 related expenses such as securing conference call software. A resolution will need to be done for reimbursement of the expense.

- Proposed State Furlough Program

Mayor Plumer advised that CFO Steinberg has informed him of a proposed furlough program that NJ State Senator Sweeney has drafted. The State is looking to furlough State employees for a few days a week so that the State can potentially save on salary expenses and the employee would benefit by the Federal Unemployment Program providing an additional \$600.00 per week on unemployment. State employees would be able to retain

their health benefits while being furloughed. Township Clerk/Administrator Bobrowski noted that Alexandria Township is a small municipality with limited staff capabilities. By furloughing an employee that could create operational problems for residents not being provided service. DPW Foreman Heiser noted that as of Monday, April 27th he will be working with a full crew as they are beginning their work on Schaaf Road for about 5 weeks. Mayor Plumer noted that the bill has not passed and that it is just a proposal. The Township will determine if this program would benefit the Township and its operations upon its adoption.

- **Schaaf Road**

Comm. Pfefferle noted that he contacted Township Engineer Decker regarding the Schaaf Road project. Comm. Pfefferle had concerns about the Township DPW doing labor and the reporting process that needs to be done to be reimbursed by the State grant for labor. Township Clerk/Administrator Bobrowski advised that the Township grants that were awarded are for road material only. The Township will not be reimbursed for piping already purchased and labor. The company that will be hired for road material/milling will submit their employee logs to the Township so that they are compensated through the grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON GENERAL MATTERS:

Resident Curtis Schick commented on the ease to join the conference call and appreciated the efforts of the municipality to continue operations during this crisis.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to adjourn at 6:39 PM.

Roll Call: Aye: Plumer, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 6:39PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michele Bobrowski, CMC/RMC

Township Clerk

I hereby certify that I have reviewed these Minutes of the Township Committee Meeting of April 22, 2020 and certify that said Minutes were approved by the Township Committee on the 13th day of May 2020.

Gabe Plumer, Mayor